



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48

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MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

ARLINGTON TX 76013

Requestor Name and Address

MOTHER FRANCIS HOSPITAL WINNSBORO
3255 WEST PIONEER PARKWAY

Respondent Name

TEXAS MUTUAL INSURANCE CO

Carrier's Austin Representative Box

Box Number 54

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-13-1005-01

MFDR Date Received

DECEMBER 20, 2012

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "We have found in this audit they have not paid what we determine to be 'fair and reasonable' amount for this outpatient services...We also verified there was PPO reduction taken, and that the incorrect APC was used in the pricing of this claim. We submitted a reconsideration to get a resolution prior to filing this dispute but the carrier is staying with their original allowance."

Amount in Dispute: \$147.71

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "Texas Mutual maintains its position the billing for this outpatient admission was paid correctly. No additional payment is due."

Response Submitted by: Texas Mutual Insurance Co.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
March 21, 2012	Outpatient Services-Codes 71020, 72040, 72125, 96372, 99282	\$147.71	\$0.00

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and all applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 effective May 25, 2008, 33 *Texas Register* 3954, sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403, reimbursement guidelines for medical services provided in an outpatient acute care hospital on or after March 1, 2008.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1 effective March 1, 2008, 33 *Texas Register* 626, sets forth general provisions related to medical reimbursement.
4. Texas Labor Code §413.011 sets forth provisions regarding reimbursement policies and guidelines.
5. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:

Explanation of benefits

- CAC-W1-Workers compensation state fee schedule adjustment.
- CAC-193-Original payment decision is being maintained. Upon review, it was determined that this claim was processed properly.
- CAC-45-Charge exceeds fee schedule/maximum allowable or contracted/legislated fee arrangement. (Use group codes PR or CO depending upon liability).
- 370-This hospital outpatient allowance was calculated according to the APC rate, plus a markup.
- 724-No additional payment after a reconsideration of services.
- 728-This bill was reviewed/denied in accordance with your First Health Contract.
- 767-Reimbursed per O/P at 200%. Separate reimbursement for implantables (including certification) not requested per rule 134.403(G).

Issues

1. Does a contractual agreement issue exist in this dispute?
2. Is the requestor classified as a Critical Access Hospital (CAH)?
3. What is Medicare's reimbursement policy for CAH?
4. What is the DWC reimbursement methodology applicable to this dispute?
5. Is the requestor entitled to reimbursement?

Findings

1. The insurance carrier reduced or denied disputed services with reason code "Charge exceeds fee schedule/maximum allowable or contracted/legislated fee arrangement. (Use group codes PR or CO depending upon liability)." Review of the submitted information finds insufficient documentation to support that the disputed services are subject to a contractual agreement between the parties to this dispute. The above denial/reduction reason is not supported. The disputed services will therefore be reviewed for payment in accordance with applicable Division rules and fee guidelines.
2. According to CMS, a hospital must meet one of the following criteria to be classified/reclassified as a Critical Access Hospital (CAH):
 - the hospital is located in a non-MSA county; or
 - the hospital is located in a census tract considered rural under the Goldsmith Modification; or
 - the hospital is treated as rural by the State through a statutory or regulatory provision adopted by the State.

According to CMS NPI Registry, Mother Francis Memorial Hospital in Winnsboro, TX is classified as a CAH.

3. Pursuant to 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403(d), "For coding, billing, reporting, and reimbursement of health care covered in this section, Texas workers' compensation system participants shall apply Medicare payment policies in effect on the date of service is provided with any additions or exceptions specific in this section."

According to CMS policy, there are two methods of reimbursement for CAH services:

- The Standard Payment Method – CAH facility services are paid at 101 percent of reasonable costs.
- The Optional Payment Method – CAH facility services are paid a reasonable cost-based facility service plus 115 percent fee schedule payment for professional services.

According to CMS policy, CAHs elect from the two payment methodologies: Standard or Optional.

4. Pursuant to 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403(d), "For coding, billing, reporting, and reimbursement of health care covered in this section, Texas workers' compensation system participants shall apply Medicare payment policies in effect on the date of service is provided with any additions or exceptions specific in this section."

Pursuant to 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403(e)(1-3), "Regardless of billed amount, reimbursement shall be: (1) the amount for the service that is included in a specific fee schedule set in a contract that complies with the requirements of Labor Code 413.011; or (2) if no contracted fee schedule exists that complies with Labor Code 413.011, the maximum allowable reimbursement (MAR) amount under subsection (f), including any applicable outlier payment amounts and reimbursement for implantables; (3) If no contracted fee schedule exists that complies with Labor Code 413.011, and an amount cannot be determined by application of the formula to calculate the MAR as outlined in subsection (f) of this section, reimbursement shall be determined in accordance with 134.1 of this title (relating to Medical Reimbursement)."

The submitted documentation does not support that a contractual agreement for the disputed services exists; therefore, 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403(e)(1) does not apply.

28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403(f), “The reimbursement calculation used for established the MAR shall be the Medicare facility specific amount, including outlier payment amounts, determined by applying the most recently adopted and effective Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) reimbursement formula and factors as published annually in the *Federal Register*.”

According to CMS policy, CAHs are not subject to the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System; therefore, 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403(e)(2) does not apply.

In accordance with 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403(e)(3) reimbursement for the disputed services shall be determined in accordance with 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1.

5. This dispute relates to services with reimbursement subject to the provisions of 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1, which requires that, in the absence of an applicable fee guideline or a negotiated contract, reimbursement for health care not provided through a workers' compensation health care network shall be made in accordance with subsection 134.1(f), which states that “Fair and reasonable reimbursement shall: (1) be consistent with the criteria of Labor Code §413.011; (2) ensure that similar procedures provided in similar circumstances receive similar reimbursement; and (3) be based on nationally recognized published studies, published Division medical dispute decisions, and/or values assigned for services involving similar work and resource commitments, if available.”

Texas Labor Code §413.011(d) requires that fee guidelines must be fair and reasonable and designed to ensure the quality of medical care and to achieve effective medical cost control. The guidelines may not provide for payment of a fee in excess of the fee charged for similar treatment of an injured individual of an equivalent standard of living and paid by that individual or by someone acting on that individual's behalf. It further requires that the Division consider the increased security of payment afforded by the Act in establishing the fee guidelines.

Former 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c)(2)(G), requires the requestor to provide “documentation that discusses, demonstrates, and justifies that the amount being sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement in accordance with §134.1 of this title (relating to Medical Reimbursement) when the dispute involves health care for which the Division has not established a maximum allowable reimbursement (MAR), as applicable.” Review of the submitted documentation finds that:

- The requestor's position statement asserts that “We also verified there was PPO reduction taken, and that the incorrect APC was used in the pricing of this claim. We submitted a reconsideration to get a resolution prior to filing this dispute but the carrier is staying with their original allowance.”
- The requestor did not submit documentation to support that additional payment of \$147.71 is fair and reasonable reimbursement.
- The requestor does not discuss or explain how \$147.71 supports the requestor's position that the amount sought is a fair and reasonable reimbursement for the services in this dispute.
- The requestor did not submit nationally recognized published studies or documentation of values assigned for services involving similar work and resource commitments to support the requested reimbursement.
- The requestor did not support that payment of the requested amount would satisfy the requirements of 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1.

The request for additional reimbursement is not supported. Thorough review of the submitted documentation finds that the requestor has not demonstrated or justified that payment of the amount sought would be a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement for the services in dispute. Additional payment cannot be recommended.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Division finds that the requestor has not established that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to \$0.00 reimbursement for the disputed services.

Authorized Signature

_____	_____	8/8/2013
Signature	Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	Date

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to seek review of this decision in accordance with 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307, effective May 31, 2012, *37 Texas Register* 3833, **applicable to disputes filed on or after June 1, 2012.**

A party seeking review must submit a **Request to Schedule a Benefit Review Conference to Appeal a Medical Fee Dispute Decision** (form **DWC045M**) in accordance with the instructions on the form. The request must be received by the Division within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. The request may be faxed, mailed or personally delivered to the Division using the contact information listed on the form or to the field office handling the claim.

The party seeking review of the MDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision*** together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §141.1(d).

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.